

The Department of Shorthand and Typewriting



The Department of Shorthand and Typewriting came into existence with the rest of the Institute. Both owe their life to the same conditions and the generosity of the same man. Each school realizes this truth, and that is the reason they have marched along, hand in hand, with brotherly love.

The Department belongs to what is known as the "Associated Departments," so called chiefly because they do not associate.

History naturally divides itself into epochs, and these epochs are in their turn made by important events. The events are of two varieties: Those which affect contemporaneous history and those which affect only the history with which they are connected. The events of the first class are, naturally, of greater importance to the Institution, and, therefore, should be named first.

The first incident of importance to affect the Institute materially (for better or for worse), was the birth of this Department.

The next event to affect the Institute was the downfall of the first autocratic ruler of the Department, and the establishment of a milder form of government under its present Director — or Dictator.

The first named incident is of such obvious importance it is unnecessary to state fully its significance.

The second is important because it commemorates the era of prosperity to the Department, and, therefore, to a marked extent, to the rest of the School. The day the new administration went into effect, the Department began to grow and expand, and has continued to do so ever since.

These are the only two issues of vital importance to the rest of the School.

There have, however, been a great many internal struggles which have had a decided influence on the Department itself. The first of these was disastrous. There was a perceptible falling off in the attendance during the first nine months of the School under the first form of government, but the decrease proved to be of only temporary duration. Notwithstanding the sad fact that the establishment was going into decline, the Directors perceiving its hardy qualities, decided that it was capable of going forth from under her protecting wing to conquer, and, consequently, set it out to grapple with the world alone. In order to make room for another associated department. The Shorthand and Typewriting School confirmed her predictions by taking up its abode in an adjoining flat and flourishing beyond all expectations.

Time went on smoothly and peaceably. There was no strife, no bloodshed; nothing of an exciting nature to record. The next occurrence of importance — the next epoch maker — came in the Spring of 1897, when it was found necessary to make over the quarters, in order to make room for the larger number of students desiring admittance. The apartments were made larger and improved. This is the last event of importance to occur to the Department.

A large, elegant handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mary Lusk Bush".

A large, elegant handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rupert P. A. Rellie".